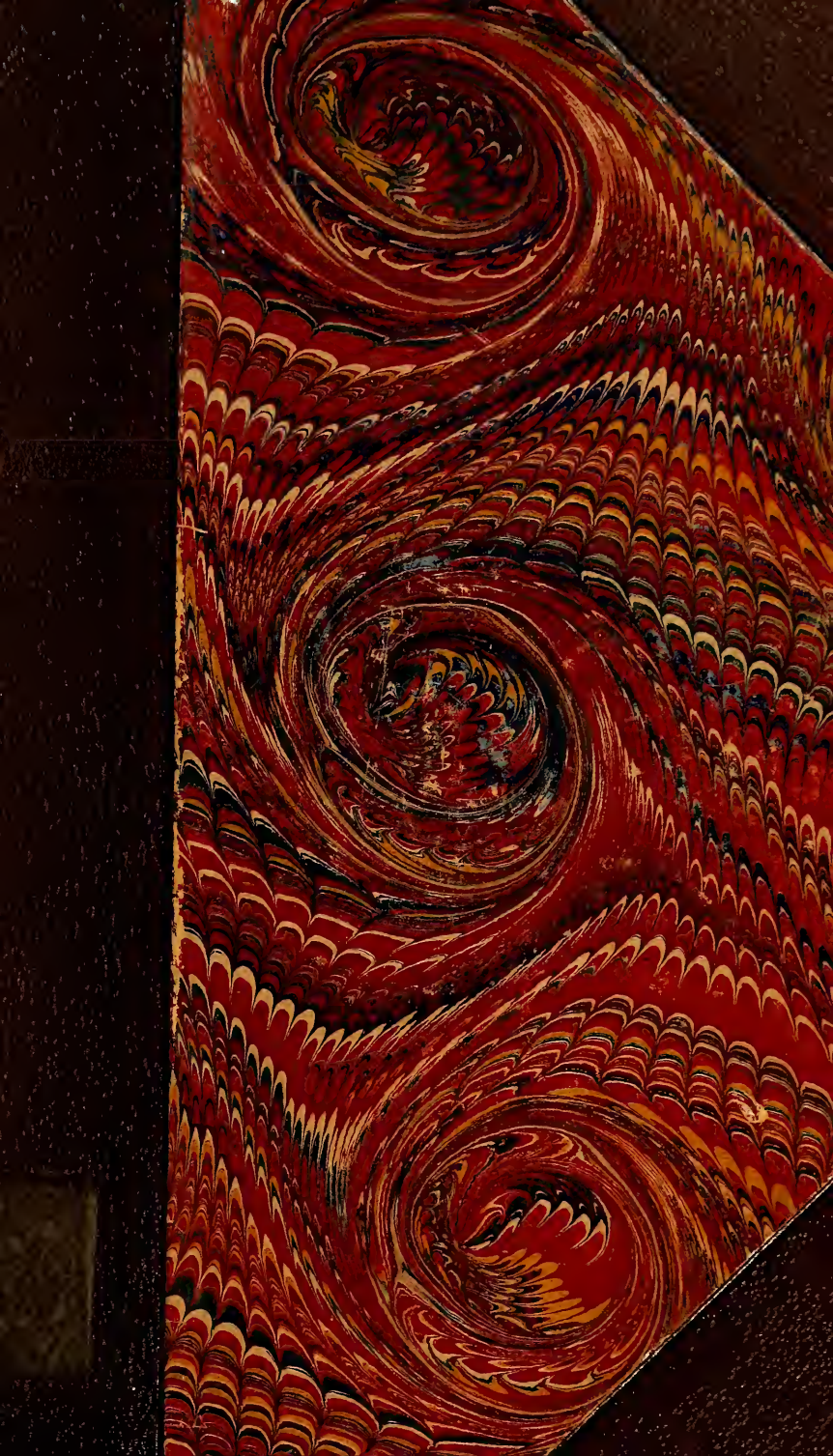




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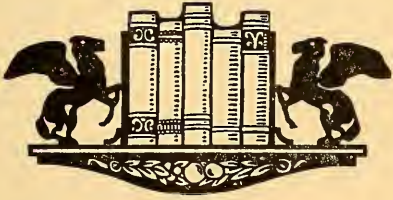
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The Blind.

OCCASIONAL PAPER.

No. 12.

OCTOBER 20TH, 1900.

All communications for the next number must be sent on or before December 15th, to Mr. Henry J. Wilson, Hon. Editor, 53, Victoria Street, Westminster, London, S.W.

The Editor does not of necessity identify himself with opinions which may be expressed in the signed articles or in letters of correspondents, and the right is reserved of not printing any letter which may seem not to come within the limits of a discussion likely to be profitable. Letters must be accompanied by the writer's name and address, not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

Copies of this Paper, price 3d. each, or 3½d. post free, can be obtained from the Editor.

EDITORIAL.

In this number we give an article by the Hon. Mrs. Campion, on "Weaving, an Industry for the Blind," which industry she introduced into the Barclay Home for Blind Women at Brighton, and also an account of "The Society for Granting Annuities to the poor adult Blind," by Mr. Stuart Johnson, the Hon. Treasurer.

In our next number, with the kind permission of Dr. Campbell, we propose to print the whole of, or extracts from, his paper, entitled, "The National Education and Training for the Blind," which was read in Paris last August at the International Congress for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Blind.

HENRY J. WILSON.

NOTES.

1. Mr. A. J. Dexter, B.A. an old pupil of the Worcester Blind College, has taken third class honours in the final classical school of Literæ Humaniores at Oxford. Mr. Dexter was ordained by the Bishop of St. Albans on September 30th, and immediately entered on his duties as curate at St. Luke's, Victoria Docks.

2. Mr. G. M. Llewellyn, of Jesus College, Oxford, has taken second class Honours in Modern History. He was formerly a student at the Worcester Blind College. He is a candidate for the ministry with the Calvinistic Methodist Body in Wales, and has gone to Trevecca College for a course in theology.

3. Mr. J. Warden, and Mr. J. H. Gordon Smith, late students of Worcester Blind College, have passed "responsions," and have gone up to Keble College, Oxford.

4. The unsuccessful Liberal candidate, Mr. Walker King, for Taunton, is totally blind, and an effective speaker.

5. The School for the Indigent Blind, St. George's Circus, Southwark, which was founded in 1799, has been sold to the Baker Street and Waterloo Electric Railway Company. Half of the premises was vacated on the 30th of September last, and the other half has to be vacated in June, 1902.

The Committee are anxious to obtain about 15 acres in the country on which to erect a new school.

6. Mr. H. Wade Deacon has been elected President of the School for the Blind at Liverpool, and he is to be warmly congratulated on having immediately decided to start the "Saxon System" in connection with that Institution. He has already succeeded in raising a little over £2000 for this special object. We wish him all success, and trust that others will follow his good example.

7. The late Mr. A. Buckle's post, as Superintendent of the Yorkshire School for the Blind, has been filled by the appointment of Mr. Edward Burnet, B.A. There were 95 applicants, including clergymen, retired officers, and others. Mr. Burnet is a Graduate in Arts of London University, and has had considerable experience in educational work, having been for four years Headmaster of the Ashton-in-Makerfield Grammar School. He is also a registered instructor in Manual Training, and in Science and Art.

8. The Rev. B. G. Johns, who died last July in his eightieth year, was Chaplain and Secretary to the School for the Indigent Blind in St. George's Fields from 1851 to 1886. He was author of several works about the Blind.

9. The report of the Royal Normal College for the Blind, for 1898 and 1899, recently published, is well worth careful reading, and is appropriately illustrated with scenes of school life. By the deaths of the Duke of Westminster, and of Mr. John M. Cook, the College, which was re-transferred on October 1st, 1899, from the London School Board to the Trustees and Council of the College, has lost two staunch friends and supporters.

The Principal's report, especially that part which deals with the important principles which underlie the Higher and Musical Education of the Blind, is most interesting and instructive, and is a summary of the valuable experience of one who has devoted his whole life in fitting with signal success those who are like-afflicted, for the battle of life. He states that when the College was founded in 1872, "two of its fundamental principles were the physical training and development of the Blind, and effectual help in starting business." We believe this resolution to have been the very essence of the subsequent success amongst pupils who were educated at the College, and are now earning their own livings in the world. It is difficult to quote, where all is sound and well-judged, but we heartily endorse the following statements:—"Pianoforte tuning will cease to be a good and successful employment for the blind, *unless the work is thoroughly and effectively carried out.*" "The blind cannot afford to do work which is not *the best* of its kind."

10. An interesting and instructive article, though couched in rather technical terms for the lay mind, entitled "Eye Disease in Egypt," by Mr. Kenneth Scott, M.B., F.R.C.S., appeared in "*The Lancet*" of August 25th. The article is now published as a pamphlet. Mr. Scott states that the infection of certain eye diseases can be traced almost invariably to direct manual contact, and that a great deal of injury to eyes is wrought by the

very prevalent use of locally made nostrums in the form of various dry powders. Disorganised eyes were peculiarly frequent. Mr. Scott speaks with authority, as he was more than eight years in Egypt examining into diseases of the eye. He gives statistics of in-patients in the Kasr-el-Aini Hospital, Cairo, from January 1st, 1891, to December 31st, 1898. Mr. Scott is one of the Committee who are organizing the work of "massage" by the blind, and takes much interest in the subject.

11. The following works in Braille have been recently added to the Library at Oxford :—Shakespeare's *King Lear* and *Twelfth Night*, Cæsar's "De Bello Civili," Holland's Jurisprudence, vol. i., and the first two volumes of Jevons' "Logic."

12. The work for the Blind at Whitby is extending. A large, well-ventilated workshop in Walker Road has been taken, where the men have plenty of room for carrying on their work, and also for storing the necessary materials, tools, &c. The sale room is still at the old premises, 2, Brunswick Street. This small workshop has proved most successful, and four blind Whitby men, who have been trained at the York School and are consequently very proficient, are fully employed and earn good wages. We want more of these small workshops in other centres. An interesting paper which included an account of this subject by Mr. A. Hirst, was read at the International Conference of the Blind, held at Paris in August last.

13. The annual meeting of the Midland Institution for the Blind at Nottingham was held on June 29th, when the Mayor presided. The annual report, then read, for the year ended March 31st last, is very satisfactory. There were on the books 55 in-door pupils, 12 boarded out, and 13 day pupils, making 80 in all. There were also 30 (27 men and 3 women) out-door workers. The sales amounted to £4117, being an increase over the previous year's. A sum of £40 has been expended in assisting old pupils. It will be remembered that it was the Secretary of this Institution (Mr. Pine) who wrote the interesting article "Afterwards" in No. 5 of "*The Blind*,"

an article which we have reason to believe has done much good in support of this necessary system of looking after old pupils. The Education Department has been urging the Committee for some time to provide increased school and recreation room accommodation, and as the requisite extension cannot be made in the existing buildings, only one of two courses seems open, either to erect fresh buildings on a new site, or to drop the educational work, and convert the present buildings into an industrial establishment. The financial statement was very satisfactory, inasmuch as there was a balance in hand of £130 on the general account, and in the trade department a net profit of £105—the larger portion of the profit coming from the sale of brushes.

14. The report of the Institution for the Blind at Norwich, for the year 1899, shows that the trade receipts amounted to £534, being an increase of £56 over the preceding year. There were 27 children in the school (22 resident and 5 non-resident). There has been a change in the staff, and the new head mistress is sighted and an L.L.A. of St. Andrew's, and the new assistant, Miss Adams, is blind, and is a certificated teacher trained at the Royal Normal College for the Blind at Norwood. Besides the 27 children in the Institution, there were also 17 in the technical school, 11 in the Asylum and 8 journeymen, making a total of 63. The Institution was established in 1805.

15. We are pleased to hear that the leaflet on Prevention of Blindness, which is distributed gratuitously by the Gardner Trust for the Blind, has been translated into Yiddish for circulation amongst the Jews. Dr. Chaplin, who has resided many years in Jerusalem has had the translation made. The question of printing and circulation is now being considered.

16. A summary of reports on the eyesight of children under the London School Board as regards distant vision, has been recently drawn up—the returns for near vision not yet having been tabulated—and it appears that of 338,920 children tested 259,523, or 76.6 per cent. had good distant vision, and 79,167, or 23.3 per cent. serious defective vision. No less than

Scott Gatty—6 Plantation Songs with Chorus & Pianoforte	s.	d.
Accompaniments, vol. i.	1	4
Lobanoff, Loris—12 Original Compositions with octaves, each	3d. or 4d.	
Christmas Carols—New and Old—selected from 1st series	1	6
2nd „	2	0
3rd „	2	4

The following Books have been recently stereotyped in Moon's type by Moon's Society, 104, Queen's Road, Brighton :—

	s.	d.
The Life of Mrs. Fry	4	6
Sketches of Christian Life in England in the Olden Times, by Mr. Rundle Charles, vols. i., ii., iii. . . each	4	6
Edinburgh after Flodden, by Aytoun, 1 vol.	3	6

WEAVING, AN INDUSTRY FOR THE BLIND.

“Weave the Warp and weave the Woof,” that is our motto, not “Weaving winding sheets,” but weaving to help the living, weaving delicate serges of the purest wool, soft enough, as in the fairy tale, to pass through a ring. Weaving pretty aprons, dusters and cloths for household use, and many other articles.

These things are all woven at the Barclay Home for the Blind, Brighton. There, you will enter a spacious room, and you will find blind young women, with deft fingers cheerfully and busily weaving under the supervision of a sighted teacher.

It is best to buy the cotton or wool direct from the manufacturers. If this cannot be done it may be purchased reasonably from some tradesman in a large way of business.

The looms cost from £2 10s. to £5, the latter is the best to purchase, and though the outlay will be considered large, it must be remembered that woven goods are always in demand, and that there is but small likelihood of a loom ever standing idle for lack of orders.

It is wise economy to engage a really expert teacher who

can instruct the girls in all pattern weaving, and who can be patient, not only patient herself with the girls, but brightly encouraging them to overcome the difficulties, and never to despair of success.

A blind girl can be taught to spin flax: (we do not carry this out in practice, as it is really less expensive to buy the cotton), she can then learn bobbin making and to make the Warp; the latter, would bring her in, in earnings from about 8d. to 1/- a day, and is easy light work.

As far as these preliminaries go, a blind girl can learn to do everything soon without help, but, she cannot set up the loom, nor could she ever learn to do this; the help of a sighted person must be called in to set up the loom, a work requiring great care in threading the warp through the heedles: again, when the thread breaks in weaving, a blind person cannot always, without help, find the thread and where to re-thread it, though she should always be able to discern that a thread has broken. Therefore, it is of no use to teach weaving to any blind girl, who cannot call in the help of mother or sister, when she leaves the Home. The Committee of the Barclay Home would gladly teach any mother, sister, or friend of a blind girl residing at the Home, if they could come to them for six weeks for tuition: the art could be learnt in this time.

Blind girls can manage pattern weaving in different colours, the pattern depending on the pedal, the colours on throwing the different shuttles. *Raised* pattern weaving has not yet been taught at the Barclay Home, but, it is believed that one very intelligent girl may manage it.

Now, as to earning power—this must be governed by capability of pupil—very few blind girls could work longer than six hours a day at the loom, as the constant working of hands and feet is tiring—the girls at the Barclay Home work for four hours—two in the morning, two in the afternoon, and take up knitting between times.

As far as can be ascertained, the amount to be earned in six hours would be from 8d. to 1/-, the weekly earnings from 4/- to 6/-. The earnings would be higher in raised pattern weaving.

The advantage of weaving, is, that as long as the world lasts, serge, dusters, table-cloths, etc., will be wanted! and that it is a real pleasure to the Blind to know that their work is not only good and useful, but very pleasing to the eye!

From their delicate sense of touch and from their love and appreciation of all that is beautiful it is peculiarly fitted for them.

“Weave the woof, the thread is spun,
The web is wove, the work is done.”

GERTRUDE CAMPION.

THE SOCIETY FOR GRANTING ANNUITIES TO THE POOR ADULT BLIND.

The object of this Society is “*to aid by Pensions of £6 per annum Poor Blind persons of good character, who being by age ineligible for admission into schools, only partially able to gain a living by working at a trade, and unwilling to beg, have no sufficient means of support.*”

It originated in the annual gift of £6 each to three blind persons; the donors were the late Marquis Townshend, the late Viscount Cranborne the blind Traveller (elder brother of the present Prime Minister) and his friend my late father, Mr. Edmund Charles Johnson. It was thus carried on until the year 1858, when Lord Townshend placed the sum of £800 in the hands of Trustees (he himself becoming one) for the benefit of the infant Society.

In 1865 the Society lost by death the support of its friend Lord Cranborne. Lord Townshend, who had long lived abroad and had ceased to take any part in the work, resigned his Trusteeship in 1897 and died in 1899. Mr. Edmund Charles Johnson passed away in 1895 and was succeeded as Treasurer by his only son, the writer of these notes.

As time went on, the work of the Society for granting annuities to the Poor Adult Blind began to attract the help of many outside the small body of personal friends who at first

were its only supporters; considerable donations and legacies accrued to it, many of them being the outcome of the late Treasurer's wide correspondence on "Blind" matters with comparative strangers, or thank-offerings for his advice and help in such cases.

The Society has also for some years been in receipt of a considerable grant from the funds of Gardner's Trust for the Blind by the kindness of the Committee; this grant has of late amounted to £31 10s. od. annually and is renewable at the discretion of the Committee.

With the aid of such helps as these the Society has gradually worked its way up from being one of the smallest agencies of the kind until it is now about 13th or 14th in point of size on the list of the 35 Charities which are carrying on in all parts of the country the work of granting pensions to the blind poor.

The gradual increase of the Society's resources has naturally enabled the Committee to add to the number of the annuitants, who now amount to 60, but with reference to this, the last report (after stating that the income from dividends is about £285 per annum), says "sufficient support is not now forthcoming and it has become no unusual thing for our Banker's account to be overdrawn. This cannot continue, and unless the little increased help required is forthcoming, it will be necessary, in order to conduct the Charity on true business principles, to allow vacancies, as they arise, to remain unfilled. Whatever happens, the expenses must keep pace with the receipts, for the Committee cannot, as they have said before, adopt the methods of those Societies, who outrunning discretion in their zeal to benefit large numbers, charge themselves with payments which they have no expectation whatever of being able to meet, without despairing appeals to the charitable to save their beneficiaries from disappointment The amount required is really trifling, as a sum of about £20 in donations and a permanent increase in annual subscriptions of about £25 is all that is needed to maintain the present number of annuitants."

[Since the above words were written much of the above has been generously contributed.]

It has been thought well to append the principal rules under which the Society's pensions can be received; they have been carefully thought out and often revised.

A proper form of application will be supplied by the Secretary and must be carefully filled in,

The case must then be approved by the committee before it can be placed on the list of applicants, who are elected by the votes of Subscribers.

Applicants must be of good character, assured income under £10 a year, not under 40 years of age, never a medicant, and not in receipt of Parish relief.

The Committee reserve to themselves the right of discontinuing any pension at their absolute discretion. Annuitants become disqualified by:—

- (a) Gross misconduct.
- (b) Intermarriage with a Blind Person (except under special circumstances by unanimous vote of Committee).
- (c) Begging, becoming street or alehouse-musicians, etc.
- (d) The receipt of Parish relief.
- (e) Obtaining grants from other charities to the extent of £10 and upwards per annum.

As the annuitants are paid in advance (by warrant on the 1st days of February and August) no applications can be entertained for remittances towards burial or other expenses.

In conclusion it should be stated that no expenses are contracted for hire of offices or for salaries to officials owing to the kindness of the committee of the School for the Indigent Blind, so that the cost of administration is small.

All communications should be addressed to Rev. St. Clare Hill, Hon. Sec. School for the Indigent Blind, Southwark, S.E. or to myself, at 4, Eaton Place, London, S.W.

STUART JOHNSON.

INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS FOR THE AMELIORATION OF THE CONDITION OF THE BLIND.

The Congress, as previously announced in these pages, took place at Paris in August last, and was an unqualified success, chiefly through the untiring efforts of Mons. Maurice de la Sizeranne. We give below a brief summary of the various papers read, and the names of the writers. Dr. Campbell, Mr. Hirst, and Mr. Illingworth sent papers from Great Britain, and they were received with much applause, and are admirably practical in their suggestions.

THE FIRST QUESTION discussed was, "Which is the best organization of patronage (*a*) for the blind trained in special schools, (*b*) for other blind people."

1. Father Amédée Stockmans (Gaud) thought that as parents cannot give up their interest in their children when settled in life, in like manner the Institutions should look after their old pupils. Patronage should be of a directing and co-operating element. It would be well if there were "a patronage of patronages" linking all the Institutions together.

2. Sister Bouffier (Marseille) advised the starting of a headquarters in Paris for looking after all the blind in France, with special Local Committees appointed for the different Provinces. Local workshops should be started for the blind not specially trained.

3. Mr. Brandstaeter (Konigsberg) said the most important principles were never to hurt a man's dignity, to encourage men in their work, and to maintain them in their independence.

4. Mr. Alfred Hirst (England) referred to the development of the Saxon System by the late Dr. Armitage, to the success of old pupils from the York School, and to the difficulty of providing remunerative employment for blind women.

5. Mr. Landriani (Florence). If patronage is useful to seeing people, it is indispensable to the blind. When fully instructed, they must be helped with advice and money, and in other ways.

6. Mr. Moldenhawer (Copenhagen) gave an account of what has been done, and what it is proposed to do for those leaving the Royal Institute for blind children in Denmark. He said that thorough instruction and patronage are indispensable, and much care must be taken as to the locality where men start work. For women he advocated "family homes."

7. Mr. Ravel (Marseille) believed in a centre for patronage with Local Committees, and advocated frequent concerts by the blind musicians, so as to make them known.

8. Miss Segerstedt (Stockholm) gave an account of the four Institutions for the Blind in Sweden, the first of which was founded in 1888. The Association for the Blind publishes a newspaper, receiving a subsidy from the Government.

THE SECOND QUESTION was, "Ought the teaching and education of blind children to be left to blind masters? If so, to what extent?"

1. Father Cassien (Paris). Teaching is, as a rule, better given by a sighted person than by a blind man. The latter has to acquire the knowledge of shapes, space, colours, &c., apart from knowledge acquired by memory and reasoning. In music, however, the blind man knows better how to master the difficulties of teaching, and is the superior of the sighted man.

2. Mr. Illingworth (Edinburgh). A clever sighted man can master, in a few weeks, the special methods for the blind, but it will take him years before he becomes a "naturalized blind man," and sees everything from a blind man's point of view. The blind master will be more successful in teaching where the methods are different from those used for sighted children. A sighted man is best for general supervision.

3. Brother Isidore Clé (Brussels). A blind man can teach precepts of morality, and "savoir-vivre," but he cannot make sure that these precepts are practised by his pupils. He can, however, teach singing, music, foreign languages, &c. In Belgium many blind men are teaching music successfully in schools for sighted children. Supervision ought always to be entrusted to a sighted man.

4. Mr. Kunz (Illzach). Blind teachers should be in the proportion of one to two sighted.

5. Mr. Lenderink (Amsterdam). The blind master knows from experience the difficulties which perplex a blind man's mind. A sighted man is absolutely necessary for physical training and general supervision.

6. Mr. E. Martin (Paris). The experience of the Institution Nationale is that blind masters can be entrusted with the education of blind children. Although they have no sight, they have other qualities and special aptitudes which enable them to be excellent teachers. An essential condition is untiring patience. The assistance of a sighted man for supervision is indispensable.

7. Mr. Martuscelli (Naples). In the Institute, "The Prince of Naples," the results of teaching by blind men are excellent, but sighted supervision is indispensable. In industrial work the blind teacher is superior to the sighted.

8. Abbé Rousseau (Toulouse). Physical education should be entrusted to a seeing man, but instruction in trades to a blind teacher.

9. Mr. Secretan (Lausanne). A blind man is best able to teach special methods for the blind. Children should be prepared only for the profession or trades for which they are adapted, and should not be encouraged to take up teaching, as a profession, unless specially qualified for it.

10. Mr. Simonon (Ghlin-lez-Mons), and 11, Abbé Vitali (Milan), were in favour of blind teachers with sighted supervision.

THE THIRD QUESTION was, "What is specially needed in schools for the physical development of blind children, in view of their education and instruction?"

1. Dr. F. J. Campbell (London). Education will not be crowned with success unless based on a complete system of physical development. At the Royal Normal College for the Blind there are play-grounds, a gymnasium, and a swimming bath for this purpose. It is a great assistance to children in after life, if they learn the proper use of tools at a very early age, and especially useful in the study of pianoforte tuning. The State ought to provide blind children with the primary, secondary, and technical instruction according to their aptitudes, and ought also to help those who become blind after the school age.

2. Father Cassien (Paris), and 3—Mr. Deménieux (Paris), advocated physical exercises and gymnastics in moderation.

4. Brother Isidore Clé (Brussels) thought physical exercise a thousand times more necessary for the blind than for other children, so as to remove all "gaucherie" and clumsiness. Advantage should be taken in lessons on elocution to regulate the demeanour and gestures.

5. Miss Maillefer (Lausaune) considered that the backward and imbecile children should be educated in a special Institution for such children.

6. Mr. Staub (Zurich). Children should be as much as possible in the open air. They should be constantly touching models and living animals.

7. Doctor Truc (Montpellier). Running races on foot should be encouraged as a capital exercise for the development of the thorax and respiratory organs.

8. Mr. Vinko-Bek (Croatia) advocated the Froebel system, modelling, &c.

THE FOURTH QUESTION was, "To what degree, and by what means can a primary school for the sighted be used in the intellectual development of blind children?"

1. Mr. Gustave Delarue (Paris). If children cannot be admitted into the special schools until ten years of age, it is better for them to attend schools for the sighted than remain at home idle.

2. Brother Isidore Clé (Brussels), a primary school for the sighted is bad for blind children—the master cannot attend to them properly without lacking in his duty to the others.

3. Mr. Charles Legrand (Toulouse). 4. Brother Médéric (Orleans), and 5. Mr. Molina Martin (Madrid), said primary schools for the sighted could not take the place of special schools for the blind.

6. Sister Reverdy (Montpellier). Teaching in schools for the sighted is given largely by means of the eyes on blackboards, maps, &c., which would be useless to the blind. It is, however, an advantage to them to be in contact with seeing children.

7. Mr. Branco Rodriguez (Lisbon). The blind can receive neither education nor instruction in common with the seeing. There must be special books, hand-writing, and tools.

CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editor of "The Blind."

CLAREMONT,

MANCHESTER,

August 29th, 1900.

Dear Sir,

The readers of your paper may be interested to hear of the work which is being carried on in Manchester and Salford, for the relief of the Blind who are living in their own homes, or in lodgings. The branches of the work are—

- 1.—A provident club for men and women, which gives help in time of sickness or need:
- 2.—A Home of rest at St. Annes' on the Sea (payment 6/- per week).
- 3.—A Braille Library and a Braille Industry, with Home teaching.
- 4.—A Home for blind women at 1, Hulme Place, The Crescent, Salford. Inmates pay 5/- per week, which covers everything.
- 5.—Industries, such as wood-chopping and knitting, etc., which can be carried on by the Blind at their own homes.
- 6.—A system of visiting the Blind in their own homes. These are divided into little groups of from two to eight, and a group is assigned to each Visitor, thus keeping all in touch with the central Committee. These Visitors meet monthly, or send in reports of cases needing attention.

We are hoping soon to have a home for aged and infirm blind people; also a Club in the centre of the town, for men; and eventually, penny dinners and other means of helping our people.

From the Hulme Place Home, clothing is distributed, and we are thankful for any cast-off garments for men, women and children. We have two paid Blind Visitors, doing excellent work.

I will gladly supply further information as to any of the branches of our work.

Yours truly,

(Miss) ISABEL M. HEYWOOD.



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